Equal Rights

VOL. XX, No. 43
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 24, 1934

MAY 14 1935
PERIODICAL DIVISION

At the Convention

Prominent on the program of the Annual Convention of the Woman's Party held last Friday, Saturday and Sunday in New York City were Florence Bayard Hilles (left), National Chairman of the Party, and Laura Berrien (right), the National Treasurer. Miss Berrien presided at the opening business session on Saturday morning, and Mrs. Hilles at the banquet at the Park Lane Hotel, Saturday night. They urged the removal of "1000 discriminations" in the laws against women by immediate passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Equal Rights

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of the
National Woman's Party
Capitol Hill,
Washington, D. C.
Phone, Atlantic 1210.

Published Weekly
at 19 West Chase Street,
Baltimore, Md.
Phone, Vernon 3279

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Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

Annual Dues	**$10.00**
Associate Members	**$1.00**
Subscribing Members	**$3.00**
Founders	**$100.00**
Life Members	**$1,000.00**
Endowers	**$5,000.00**
Sustainers	**$5,000.00**

OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 1]
[House Joint Resolution Number 1]

Introduced in the Senate March 10, 1933, by SENATOR JOHN G. TOWNSEND, Delaware.

Introduced in the House March 9, 1933, by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW, Indiana.

A New Day

THE Annual Convention of the National Woman's Party, which closed last Sunday night in New York, was a notable event as well as an irresistible challenge to every member of the Party to do her utmost to bring to speedy fulfillment the high and confident hopes expressed at every session.

If it is true, as was repeatedly said, that women are facing the greatest crisis in the history of the world, it is equally true that they have never been better informed or more fully aware that they are an under-privileged class—not through any inherent inferiority, but because of ignorance, fear and prejudice. Thanks to the National Woman's Party and sister organizations, there is not a country or continent where women have not become conscious of their subjection and made some effort to throw it off.

Education and enlightenment are not enough. The wish to be free must be followed by the will to change hope into accomplishment. We know there is a new dispensation. What power can stop us if fearlessly and unitedly we demand what is ours?

Women and Wealth

IF THERE is a class of men to whom the Equal Rights movement should make a special appeal, it is fathers with daughters.

There was a time when the opportunities open to women were almost exclusively those connected with the home, so that marriage was not only the more desirable status, but was also woman's chief vocation. One of the principal concerns of parents therefore in regard to daughters was to see that they secured good husbands.

We do not deny that for man or woman a good marriage is a wise and happy fulfillment of that one's destiny, but we are surprised that parents do not more generally realize that marriage for the woman today, owing to the exodus of her work from the home to the factory, is in many instances hardly more of a vocation than it is for the man.

Any parent who honestly faces existing conditions would certainly not be willing to have his daughter grow up without some training for earning a living. The best of husbands may die, or be invalided, or lose his job, or his wealth. Lucky the wife who under such circumstances has had occasion to thank the wise foresight of parents who had prepared her to "carry on" in place of the incapacitated or deceased husband.

And the average father, since fathers are still pre-eminently the bread-winners, knows better than the average mother what it costs the individual in preparation and experience to make his way in the world. Upon him largely rests the responsibility, if there is a daughter or daughters, to see that capacity to weather the storms of modern life is developed to the same degree in girls as in boys.

Insurance companies say that within two years of her husband's death the average widow has nothing left of his insurance. The inference is plain. Most women even in these times have had so little business experience that designing people who are anxious to separate them from their money find them easy dupes.

It is also said that eighty-five per cent. of the nation's wealth is controlled by women. As yet there are not a sufficient number of women in business to have created so much wealth by their own efforts. Much of it has come to them from fathers, husbands and brothers.

Is it not foolish to place the responsibility for the management and control of by far the greater part of the nation's wealth in the care of women and at the same time deny them the opportunity to make the fullest use of that responsibility? If every man and woman in the country could be induced to *think through* this question of sex equality, the Equal Rights Amendment would be assured of immediate passage.

The 1934 Convention

DELEGATES from as far off as North and South Carolina, Florida and New Mexico attended the Convention of the National Woman's Party held last Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the New Weston Hotel in New York. Fourteen members of the National Council were included among the more than 120 accredited delegates. The sessions, however, were not attended by delegates alone—many non-voting members were present when Florence Bayard Hilles of Delaware, Acting National Chairman, called the Convention to order at 10 A. M. Friday morning, and by their attendance throughout the three-day sessions gave proof of their loyalty and unflagging zeal and interest in the Party's activities.

Laura Berrien, National Treasurer of the Party, presided at the opening session in place of Burnita Shelton Matthews who was unable to be present. The minutes of the Convention were not read and mimeographed copies of the Treasurer's report, certified by Elsa Doetsch, Certified Public Accountant, were presented to each delegate. The reports of officers of standing committees followed, the first being that of Jane Norman Smith of New York, Chairman of the Committee on Equality of Economic Opportunity, who said that much of the work of her committee during the past year had centered in a determined effort to prevent the consummation of the compact entered into by seven Governors for the enactment of minimum wage laws for women and children within their own States. Key women had been contacted in each State to take the matter up with their Governors and to build up a formidable resistance. Quantities of literature showing the injustice of the compact had been sent to the last Conference of Governors held in Concord, Mrs. Smith said, and added that it was the intention of her committee to go on and work against the adoption of the compact in the State Legislatures and also in Congress.

The report was followed by an announcement by Helena Hill Weed of Washington that she was present during a recent visit of the Woman's National Press Club to Attorney General Cummings and had taken that opportunity to talk to the Attorney General about the matter of inequalities in the NRA codes. "As a result," said Mrs. Weed, "the Attorney General has agreed to give us a personal conference at which we will have an opportunity to undo the injustice that has been done us through the codes and the interstate compact."

Alma Lutz of Boston, Chairman of the Literature Committee, announced that her committee had published five new leaflets since the last convention at a total cost of $128.00, leaving a balance on hand of $19.98. She said that a great many leaflets were needed to disseminate information and win advocates for the Equal Rights Amendment and that the committee was particularly anxious to put out a reprint of Mrs. Weed's recent magazine article entitled, "What Women Want."

Edith Houghton Hooker of Maryland, Editor of EQUAL RIGHTS, presented the report of Dora Ogle of Maryland, Business Manager of the magazine, who was unable to attend the Convention. Mrs. Hooker reported that the paper was confronted with a deficit, and proposed that the members of the Party finance it by an increase in the number of subscribers and by building up an organization of *Equal Rights Associates,* each of whom would pledge herself to give ten dollars a year to support the magazine. An immediate response to Mrs. Hooker's appeal came from Margaret Konig Mayhew of Maryland who has recently formed a Maryland Industrial Council of the Woman's Party. Mrs. Mayhew said the Council would enroll itself among the Equal Rights Associates by pledging a donation of ten dollars.

"That women can secure the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment when they want it," was the confident assertion of Laura Berrien at the luncheon following the business session at which Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley of the District of Columbia presided. Miss Berrien said that it had taken a tremendous amount of idealism to secure the passage of the Equal Nationality Bill and the adoption of the Equal Nationality Treaty, but these victories in themselves, she contended, were an earnest that complete equality would be secured in a very short time if women desired it and worked for it with sufficient intensity. She proposed that the Party make the amendment the "first order of business in the coming year."

Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, of the District of Columbia, former National Chairman, told of the changed attitude toward Equal Rights among the clubwomen of the United States. This year for the first time, Mrs. Wiley said, the Equal Rights Amendment has been placed on the program of study of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and, in addition, the District of Columbia and Michigan State Federations have formally endorsed the amendment.

Nina Strandberg, noted Feminist of Finland, brought the international aspect of the Equal Rights movement to the fore. In Finland, she said, every profession is open to women except the ministry and military service, but already a strong movement is under way to make it possible for women to enter the ministry of the Lutheran Church of which about 80 per cent of the Finlanders are communicants. There are women members in the Finnish Parliament, Miss Strandberg said, and they are working quietly, consistently and determinedly for Equal Rights. "Women," she concluded, "are, indeed, emancipated in Finland."

Ella Riegel of Pennsylvania gave a vivid account of a recent visit to Geneva and of the efforts that are being put forward by the women of all nations to secure Equal Rights through action of the League of Nations. The women in Norway, Sweden and Denmark are trying hard, she said, to have their citizenship status raised on a par with that of their sisters of Finland. She said she felt that at the next meeting of the League of Nations delegates from these countries would be instructed for equal nationality.

That the National Woman's Party has a great opportunity in the present economic crisis in that it could be a "help to women all over the world" was the message read to the Convention from a letter sent by Alice Paul from Geneva which was read at the afternoon business meeting. Adelaide Stedman of the New York City Committee presided.

The report of the Credentials Committee, presented at this session by Rebekah S. Greathouse, Chairman of the Committee and Secretary of the Woman's Party, showing a total of 121 accredited delegates, was followed by that of the Invest-

EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

Resolution Adopted by Equal Rights International at General Meeting, Geneva, September 9, 1934.

The Equal Rights International welcomes the signature at the time of the Seventh International Conference of American States, at Montevideo, in December, 1933, of an Equal Rights Treaty containing the text which appears in the "Object" of the Equal Rights International.

"The Contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have equal rights throughout the territories subject to their respective jurisdiction."

The Equal Rights International offers its most cordial congratulations to the Governments of Paraguay, Cuba, Ecuador, and Uruguay. They are the first Governments in the whole world to understand the vital importance of the world's progress of adherence to the principle of the equality to the sexes. In thus taking the initiative the Governments of Paraguay, Cuba, Ecuador, and Uruguay have shown to other nations the way of right, wisdom, and justice.

The Equal Rights International pledges itself to renewed efforts to extend the application of the Equal Rights Treaty.

ment and Endowment Committee, presented by Mrs. Avery Coonley of New York, its chairman. The reading and acceptance of this report was followed by a motion, which was adopted, that copies of the quarterly reports which this committee is accustomed to present to the National Council should also be made available to such State Chairmen of the Party as requested them.

The remainder of the session was given up to the consideration of proposed changes in the by-laws of the Party. Those that were adopted are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Banquet Speakers Unite in Call to Action

FORMAL evening attire, the Party colors represented in its purple, gold and white banners and in clusters of gorgeous chrysanthemums, the magic shimmer of indirect lighting, as well as the flow of soul and wit, made the Saturday night banquet a memorable affair. Florence Bayard Hilles, Acting Chairman of the Party, introduced the toastmistress, Betty Gram Swing, and in so doing alluded to the days when she and Betty had worked out their sentences in the Washington Workhouse because each had felt it imperative to picket the White House to win freedom for women.

After the vote was won, Betty Gram, who has since become Mrs. Gram Swing, her husband being Raymond Gram Swing, editor of *The Nation,* has lived in London, England, and as a result was able to make some interesting comparisons between the status of women in that country and the United States. Conceding that American women still have far to go before there is real equality between the sexes, she said she felt that the plight of women in Europe, especially in Germany and Italy and also in England, was even worse than in this country. In proof, she cited the fact that married women had been dismissed from the British Civil Service, that Parliament had ratified the iniquitous Hague Convention discriminating against women in Nationality and that Sir Herbert Austin, the Henry Ford of England and one of that country's greatest employers of women, had advocated throwing women out of industry.

"Did women take it lying down?

"Hardly," said Miss Swing, "when 38 women's organizations rented the biggest hall they could find and held the greatest mass meeting since the days of Mrs. Pankhurst. The hall was jammed and hundreds turned away."

Sentiment, she went on, was electric in behalf of the protestants. England's foremost thinkers and writers, among them Winifred Holtby, Bertrand Russell, Nevinson, and H. G. Wells, espoused the cause of the women and filled the newspapers and magazines with indignant protests. Liverpool University which had dismissed women from its faculty thereafter rescinded that ill-advised action.

The victory at Montevideo had given the greatest encouragement to the sentinels of freedom in Great Britain and other European countries, the speaker said. She pleaded for a united womanhood to fight sex discrimination in every country of the world. Then turning to Gail Laughlin of Maine, member of the Maine Legislature, who was to be the next speaker, Mrs. Gram Swing paid tribute to the latter as one of the nation's outstanding Feminists and predicted that "As Gail goes, so goes the nation."

INVEIGHING against the existence of a "double standard in human rights" which is responsible for the existence of hundreds of discriminations against women in our laws today, most of them having survived from a day when women were chattels, Miss Laughlin declared that the test between freedom and slavery was whether one owned one's own labor or not. That women did not own the fruits of their toil, she contended, was evident not only from recent legislation, such as that contained in the NRA codes, but also from laws in many States which enabled husbands, in some instances, to collect damages for their wives' services when, through accidents, the wives become incapacitated, with no corresponding right on the part of wives if conditions should be reversed. In one instance, she said, where a woman had worked in her husband's store and her services were paid for by her husband, first in cash and later—when the business began to go down hill—in notes, and the husband became insolvent, the court refused to allow the trustee to consider the notes as liabilities of the husband on the ground that it could not "allow gifts ahead of creditors." Even in regard to parental rights over children, Miss Laughlin said, the laws were grossly unfair to women, there being only two States out of the forty-eight where mothers, in regard to children, have absolutely Equal Rights with fathers. And discriminations have followed women, she asserted, from the home into the factory world, partly because of the specious argument that women are the weaker sex, a contention that is absolutely without foundation, she added, since science has lately proved that "the male resists disease less well than does the female." The remedy for all discriminations, she said, was to make the provisions of the Constitution apply with equal force to women as to men, since "every right has its refuge there," and without constitutional guarantees of their rights women would continue to be "subject to the caprice of every Legislature."

The cleverness combined with clear thinking that makes Gretta Palmer's syndicated column in the New York *World-Telegram,* of which she is the woman's page editor, one of the most widely-read newspaper features of the country also distinguished her speech at the banquet. Asserting that George Jean Nathan had been one of the latest recruits to the school of thought regarding women best exemplified by Mussolini and Hitler, Miss Palmer said that the idea of pushing woman back into the home was an old one, but that the time had arrived to inquire, "What home?" Those who held this point of view, she said, were going back in thought to an idyllic time when women were "ladies" if they were anything at all. Anti-Feminists do not consider the real need—not a pin-money need—of the woman who goes out today to make her living and who has "no home made by electricity and Mrs. Sanger into a nice comfortable resting place." Nor do they take any account of the fact that woman's work has migrated from the home since you cannot today "grow vegetables or have sheep grazing on a suburban lot." The wife who works today, in most cases, she added, is "compelled to become a wage-earner because the average man's pay is not scaled to support a wife who is a drone and a houseful of children." Even in the days of the crusades woman's work, as exemplified by wearisome household drudgery, was not regarded as a household art, and today a woman may do any amount of work in her home and no one objects. It is only when the question of wages enters in, that protests arise. As matters are today, Miss Palmer said, we are heading toward becoming a "nation of bachelors holding down jobs and a nation of women barred from homes and jobs," so that she could see no future for women except "standing in bread-lines or as inmates of lodging houses."

INTERNATIONALLY famous lawyer, George Gordon Battle, the next speaker, declared he knew "no legal or reasonable argument whatever against the Equal Rights Amendment—the only obstacle is the impediment of inertia and ignorance," adding that "ignorance is the mother of

all our woes and that what we need is education and enlightment."

Mr. Battle congratulated the Party on the success of the Convention and on the "progress made not only for women's, but also for human rights." The fact that women were being elected to important Government posts were "signs of the times," he said, and, although at times progress as regards the status of women seems slow, "westward the skies are bright." Friend and adviser to Alva Belmont, Mr. Battle paid a sincere tribute to the former President of the Woman's Party and intrepid crusader for justice to women. "Mrs. Belmont," he said, "had the faculty of dreaming dreams and making the dreams come true. She was a woman of high aims, and toiled day and night to promote the cause. You must be proud to carry forward the torch she carried for so many years of ceaseless effort."

Lena Madesin Phillips, President of the National Council of Women, with a membership of fourteen million, and also President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, said she was keenly aware of the need for solidarity among women but felt the time had come for less talking and more action.

"WE were once a nation of doers. Now we have become a race of talking leaders and chattering followers." Admitting that, like Mr. Battle, she was fully conscious of the gains recently made by women, she nevertheless felt that "you do not get the true outline of a tree by looking only at the top," and therefore, as regards recent discriminations that have come into effect against women, candor obliged her to say that "it was our obligation to see that those things did not happen." And she warned that "we are losing ground and will, unless we do something about it, lose more ground. We talk a great deal about our rights and have gained the right to vote, but we don't know how to put that right into effect.

"I believe the mantle of the old Feminists has fallen on your shoulders. I should give a great deal to be able to say I had been to jail with you. I can't, but I still have hope. You have received a great heritage. Go forth and possess it," she urged.

Mrs. Gram Swing, taking up the cue, then paid an impassioned tribute to one of the grandest figures in American Feminism, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, in introducing the daughter of that famous leader—Harriot Stanton Blatch. More vigorously even than Miss Phillips, Mrs. Blatch sounded the call for more aggressive action.

"I should like it a deal better if you were fighting harder," she began. "Several of you have referred to Germany and Hitler, Italy and Mussolini, the falling short of England, and that England is looking to us. I can't understand it. It seems to me we had better look at home at things that are happening here when, without a single word of protest from us, thousands of industrial codes place the wages of women lower than those of men. And we have not held one great public meeting in protest.

"We are always told that women must have patience. That has been our greatest fault since the days of the Garden of Eden. Come forth from every corner and make your protest loud. Yes, we have women in the Cabinet, and I have no objection to women ambassadors. It's easy to appoint women to such posts. But this same Government which has put them there has made the wages of thousands of women less than those of men.

"If you want to buy a house, no-one says, 'You're a woman; we'll give it to you for less.' Or a dress, or spinach, or anything else. The woman has to pay exactly what the man at her side pays. Let us cease to be patient. Worse than anything that has been done by Hitler and Mussolini has been done by the United States Government within the last year."

"There wasn't a scrub in the lot," said Mabel Vernon about Alice Paul and other women of the Women's Consultative Committee of the League of Nations who have been battling at Geneva all summer to internationalize the principle of Equal Rights through League action and, by almost superhuman effort, have succeeded in having the entire question of the status of women placed on the agenda of the next year's Assembly. Miss Vernon who became famous when she led suffrage caravans across the United States and subsequently threw the same quality of unconquerable enthusiasm into the struggle of women for Equal Rights and world-wide peace, said that one of the greatest obstacles encountered by the crusaders for justice at Geneva was the multiplicity of rules. "Every time you try to do a thing," she explained, "you are confronted with a new rule." It was much more difficult to interview League Representatives in Geneva than Representatives and Senators in Washington, she said, and very hard also to find people who were bold enough to do things that did not suit the wishes of the Secretariat.

INASMUCH as the status of women is on the agenda of the League for next year, Miss Vernon stressed the immense importance that women should go to their own Governments before the League meets again. If in this way the ground is thoroughly prepared, she confidently asserted there was "every reason to believe that the League at the next Assembly will recognize the Equal Rights Treaty and submit it to the nations for ratification."

The summing up of the evening's program was left to Edith Houghton Hooker, editor of EQUAL RIGHTS, who said that "all the speeches had led up to one final conclusion and that was that women must wage their own battles and fight harder than ever before.

"We have won the right to vote, but we have not learned—men as well as women—to use the vote efficaciously. But we shall be able to vote for Equal Rights if we sow the seed. We learned that in Maryland recently when we aroused women to a sense of their power, and we elected on an Equal Rights plank a Republican Governor who had promised to give us the rights we deserve, and we defeated a Governor who had denied us those rights for fifteen years. We also made it our business to find out what members of the State Legislature stood for our program and elected many who will go to Annapolis pledged to carry it through."

THERE followed a rousing appeal for funds to enable the Party to continue its efforts aggressively on every front. The gifts and pledges included donations to the Party Treasury and also contributions and subscriptions to EQUAL RIGHTS.

Introduced as a "worker" whose persuasiveness results in miracles in converting legislators into Feminists, Anita Pollitzer, whom the Convention subsequently elevated from the post of third National Vice-Chairman to that of Second National Vice-Chairman, spoke jubilantly of the accomplishments of the past year, including the adoption of the Equal Rights Treaty and the passage of the Equal Rights Bill, paying tribute to the coöperation given the Party by Senator Copeland of New York, who sponsored the Equal Nationality Bill, and Senator Townsend of Delaware and Representative Ludlow of Indiana, who had introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in the Senate and House. She read a telegram from Senator Copeland pledging support of the Equal Rights Amendment, and saying that he believed its passage to be the only certain method of achieving permanent prompt recognition of women. A wire from Mr. Ludlow stated, "I am completely with you in the work you have undertaken." From Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming also came assurances that he would continue his efforts towards the realizaton of the Party's hope for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment at the next session of Congress. Miss Pollitzer also read a long list of names of members of Congress who had pledged their support on cards circulated for this purpose from the National Headquarters of the Party in Washington.

Florence Bayard Hilles Elected With Acclaim

MRS. HARVEY W. WILEY, former Chairman and now Third Vice-Chairman of the Party, opened the Sunday morning business session with a fervid plea for Party unity and solidarity.

The chief business of the morning was the acceptance of the resignation of Sarah T. Colvin of Minneapolis, Minnesota, as National Chairman of the Woman's Party, and the resignations of four members of the National Council, including that of Burnita Shelton Matthews, who also resigned as Chairman of the Research Council, and an election to fill these vacancies. Florence Bayard Hilles, who has been serving as Acting Chairman for several months, and who had preceded Mrs. Colvin as National Chairman, was re-elected to the national leadership with acclaim. Her advance from the post of First Vice-Chairman to the Chairmanship necessitated several other shifts in the list of officers. The final result of the balloting was the election, in addition to Mrs. Hilles, of the following:

FIRST Vice-Chairman, Gail Laughlin; Second Vice-Chairman, Anita Pollitzer; Third Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley. New members elected to the National Council at the afternoon session included: Mrs. George Lewis Callery of Wilmington, Delaware, a daughter of Mrs. Hilles; Alice Lee Movius of Boston, Massachusetts; Mrs. Max Rotter of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Betty Gram Swing, formerly of London, now of Washington; and Mabel Vernon of Washington.

Greetings wired to the Convention by Judge Genevieve R. Cline of the United States Customs Court in New York were read to the Convention by Anita Pollitzer, who also gave her report as Chairman of the Congressional Committee of the Party. In concluding her record of the year's intensive legislative campaign, Miss Pollitzer warned that this year's work had only begun and that it would be heavier than ever before. She asked every member of the Party to render what aid she could in helping the Committee to do effective work for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, declaring that, with the proper concentration of effort on the part of the members there was no question as to the passage of the Amendment at the next session of Congress.

Further light on the encroachments on the freedom of women to earn a living was revealed at the Sunday afternoon session, at which Mrs. Stephen H. P. Pell of New York presided. Bessie I. Koehl of Washington, D. C., Chairman of the Government Workers' Council, spoke of the hardships that women civil servants must endure as a result of the passage of Section 213 of the Economy Act. Although known as the Married Persons' Clause, women are the chief sufferers, Mrs. Koehl said. She continued:

"This section is un-American and unconstitutional in that it is contrary to public policy; it is in restraint of marriage and it is class legislation. If there is no other way to get rid of it, it should be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States on these grounds.

"Many Congressmen whom we have interviewed admit that it has not done what they had hoped it would do—spread employment, and prevent pay checks from going to several members of a family. It never will.

"In the first place, it says nothing about anyone in a family outside of married people, and, in the second place, it did not reach a large number of Government employees drawing their salaries out of the pockets of the taxpayer, that is, wives, daughters and sons of Congressmen. These are not subject to its provisions. Congress saw to that. When one of their number mentioned this on the floor, they rose as one man and fairly shouted 'No!'

"If it is a good law, it should apply to them as well as the litte $1,000 clerk under the Civil Service."

"WORKING women are facing the greatest crisis in the history of the world," declared Mary Murray. Mrs. Murray is President of the Brooklyn-Manhattan Women's Transit League and president of the Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party. "The New Deal," she said, "is just the same Old Deal under which they have been suffering for years.

"Jealousy and fear prompt the passage of these laws restricting women. Those who are advocating them for us are enjoying full equality themselves.

"Every time women ask for equality legislation men become sympathetic and begin to worry about our morals. We must protect ourselves against our would-be protectors by sticking together loyally and fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment, the only sure way that women will ever get justice. We must let our Representatives in Washington know that sympathy has never been and never will be a substitute for justice."

It was, no doubt, news to many attending the Convention to hear that as far back as a hundred years ago, 58 per cent of the workers in New England factories were women. This fact was brought out by Jane Norman Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Equality of Industrial Opportunity, in an address which traced the history of discriminations against women in industry from that early period to the present time. Even a century ago, Mrs. Smith said, it was charged that the farmers wives and daughters were "losing health, happiness and character in industry."

At a succeeding convention of organized labor in New England, they repeated the charge, but added "and they are a menace to men workers."

This camouflage of the real attitude of labor organizations toward women, which arises from the fear that if women enter industry in any considerable numbers, men will be supplanted, has continued down to the present time. Until four or five years ago. Mrs. Smith said, the American Federation of Labor continued to weep over the health and morals of working women. It was not until that late date that they stopped equivocating and admitted that their real motive was not the protection of women but to keep women from putting husbands and fathers out of jobs.

IN regard to the position of the Woman's Party on the subject of special labor laws for women, Mrs. Smith explained that one occasionally finds members who think the National Woman's Party is for protective legislation, provided it applies to both men and women. This, she explained, is not so, because the Party has never taken a stand either for or against protective legislation. It is not a labor organization and does not presume to say whether or not legislation is the best method to be used to secure better hours, working conditions and wages for *workers*. Its only concern—if restrictive laws are considered good for the individual and good for the race—is that they should apply to all workers and not to women alone.

Mrs. Smith also called attention to the international aspect of the question as affected by the adoption by the International Labor Conference in June of proposals for revising the 1919 Washington Night Work Convention. The resulting new convention proposes to prohibit night work to all women except those in responsible positions of management and not ordinarily engaged in manual work and to many classes of intellectual artistic and supervisory women workers. But it can only become effective in countries which ratify it, and it is the duty therefore of Feminists in the United States and other countries affiliated with the International Labor Office to block any attempts at ratification.

She added that this threatening situation shows how necessary it is for the Woman's Party to concentrate on secur-

ing the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and the Equal Rights Treaty.

Resolutions were passed advocating passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; expressing appreciation to Alice Paul and Doris Stevens for their signal accomplishments in the past year; and urging the placing of a bust of Susan B. Anthony in the Hall of Fame in Washington. They will be published in full in next week's EQUAL RIGHTS.

Convention Changes Constitution and By-Laws

THE following changes in the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Woman's Party were adopted at the Convention on Saturday afternoon:

For the present Article III, Sections 2 and 3, substitute the following Sections 2, 3 and 4.

Article III, "Section 2. Any group of women wishing to further the objects of this organization may form a branch of the National Woman's Party, by submitting a constitution to the National Council and receiving the approval of that Council. Upon such approval the branch shall become a part of the organization of the National Woman's Party of the State in which it is organized. There shall be no more than one State organization in each State."

"Section 3. Members residing in any locality where no organization of the Woman's Party exists may become members of the National Woman's Party by the payment of dues annually to the National Treasury."

"Section 4. Nothing in these By-Laws prevents the affiliation of a member of a branch outside her domicile."

In Article VI add the following new section:

"Section 2. There shall be a permanent Investment and Endowment Fund Committee, which shall have charge of the Woman's Party investments. This committee shall consist of the original members chosen by the National Council of the Woman's Party, together with the members since added to this committee. This Investment and Endowment Fund Committee shall fill vacancies on the committee and may add to its membership as it desires, provided that each new member is also approved by the National Council and provided that any vacancy which remains unfilled for longer than six months shall be filled by the National Council. The Investment and Endowment Fund Committee shall have the right to open and carry accounts with banks and trust companies, and to rent safety deposit boxes in the name of the Investment and Endowment Committee of the National Woman's Party. It shall have the right to authorize members of the committee to make deposits in and withdrawal from the account of the committee and authorize members to have access to the safety deposit boxes of the committee. The Investment and Endowment Fund Committee shall have charge of the National Headquarters Fund, created by Mrs. Belmont and the legacy left the National Woman's Party by Mrs. Belmont in her will. It shall have control of the Capital Funds; shall make written reports to the National Council and to the convention and after payment of taxes, real and personal, as well as all fixed charges, shall pay over all income to the Treasurer of the National Woman's Party to be expended as the National Council shall direct."

For the present Article VII, substitute the following:

"Article VII. There shall be such national occupational councils as the National Council may designate. The occupational councils shall work to remove the discriminations against women in their respective occupations."

In Article IX change "annually" to "biennially" and add the following phrase to the last sentence, "whose names and addresses have been sent to Headquarters."

In Article XI, Section 1, strike out "Each State organization shall determine the dues of its members" and for Section 2, substitute the following:

"Section 2. A member of the National Woman's Party may become a National Life Member by payment of $1,000 to the National Treasury; a National Sustainer by the payment of $5,000 to the National Treasury; a National Endower by the payment of $5,000 to the National Treasury. The dues for other members shall be $1 payable to the local, State branch or Headquarters; $10 for active members, $2 of which to be sent to National Headquarters."

Feminist Notes

Another Boycott of Women

IN *Opportunity*, London, it is pointed out that "Luxembourg is a small country, but its Government seems determined to be in the very forefront of the prevailing fashion for discriminating against the employment of women. A Grand Ducal Decree, apparently issued a few months ago, provides that in future no woman may be employed as an official except by special permission of the Government, and that women at present employed shall be dismissed on marriage, or retained only under special circumstances. Commenting on this, the *International Women's News* states that the prohibition apparently applies not only to women in the public service, but to all women in clerical employment, and suggests that it is time for women everywhere to appeal to the International Labor Office to take some action to restrain governments from disregarding one of the most elementary points in the labor charter. It adds the significant comment: 'We should all realize that if such drastic action is not yet widespread, the forced resignation of a woman Civil Servant on marriage is exactly the same thing, in principle. It is our common cause, and too often in our own countries we find ourselves powerless to claim our rights.' This is a point well worth pondering. To deny employment to some women, merely because they are married, is certainly less drastic than to deny it to all women, merely because they are women; but the difference is one of degree rather than of kind, for in both cases the fundamental right of the individual to support herself by her own labor is flagrantly assailed."

"Too Little Mother"

SOPHIE CLARK, Editor of *The Legislative Counsellor,* official publication of the Woman's Legislative Council of Washington, says her organization is strongly in favor "of a continuous, unicameral (single chamber) Legislature, in which mothers sit with fathers (real and potential) to legislate for the welfare of humanity. . . . Terms should be six years with no re-election without a two-year interval. . . . The only way to take the sex question out of politics is to have equal representation on all bodies. . . . We are suffering in every land from too *little mother* in government and too *little father* in the *home.*"

Mrs. Clark has a brilliant mind and expresses herself forcefully on various subjects.

"When parties have no particular cause to support they become static, a menace to human progress. Our political chaos requires a real reorganization of parties according to *living* issues. The issues between the two great (?) parties are dead and should be decently buried!"

Again: "Prejudices cannot be overcome through argument, because they have no basis in reason. More or less gentle ridicule is the really efficient weapon to use."

Regarding women lawyers: "If there is a place above all others suitable for women (especially mothers), it is the bench, from justice of the peace to the Supreme Court of the United States."

League of Nations Calls On Woman Expert

THE Committee instructed by the League of Nations to study the plebiscite of the Saar territory has appointed Sarah Wanbaugh, an American, as one of the three experts to prepare the draft regulations on methods of voting. Miss Wanbaugh has already acted as expert adviser to the Peruvian Government for the Tacna-Arica plebiscite.

One Out of Five

A RECENT *Bulletin* of the Business Women's Legislative Council of California informs us that, according to a new book, "Women and Wealth," by Mary Sidney Branch, "one out of every five wage-earners in this country is a woman. Women receive more than two-thirds of all legacies and more than 80 per cent. of the death claims paid annually by insurance companies."

"With all this money at our command, why should women be so fearful of standing for their rights and for each other?" asks the Editor of the *Bulletin*.

From the same source we learn that, in 1933, the Soviet Government announced that 35.5 per cent. of the workers in their industries were women; 17.8 per cent. of the mine workers and 13.3 per cent. of those employed in transportation were women. Russia leads all other countries in employment of women and practices equal pay for equal work.

Press Comment

"Men Only" Policy Condemned

The New York Sun, November 7, 1934.

A REQUEST that all teachers' examinations be open to women as well as to men was sent today to William J. Weber, acting president of the Board of Education, by the Unemployed Teachers' Association. According to the Association, the policy of excluding women from examinations not only is unjust to a large number of substitute and prospective teachers, but is threatening the standards of the teaching profession since it is barring competent teachers.

Several of the coming high school examinations, including elocution, English, French, music and physiography, are to be for men only. The Association asked that this matter be investigated and that "in the best interests of the school system," all examinations be open to women as well as men .

"This policy of exclusion is by no means new," the letter read. "In French, for example, no examination open to women has been held since 1929, whereas examinations for men were given in 1930 and 1932. Now women are being barred from the examination to be held in 1935. The infrequency with which examinations are given adds to the seriousness of the situation, for even whereas in English women could take the last examination, that examination was held three years ago. It may well be another three years before further examinations will be held.

"In addition to being an injustice, this policy is also a very serious threat to the standards of the schools and of the teaching profession. Abandoning the principle of giving positions to the best-trained individuals threatens the merit system. Barring women from examinations is discrimination directed specifically against women in the school system."

The World "Do" Move

Milwaukee Journal, August 30, 1934.

WHEN Justice Ryan in 1875 delivered certain weighty words in denying the application of a woman to be admitted to the bar, he little thought that a group of women, all of them lawyers, would be laughing themselves close to hysteria over these words one Wednesday 59 years later when Mrs. Belle Bortin Ruppa, Milwaukee, read them aloud.

Lavinia Goodell, who wanted to be a lawyer, was, according to Justice Ryan, "a lady whose character raises no personal objection; something perhaps not always to be looked for in women who forsake the ways of their sex for the ways of ours."

The listeners, women of the bar attending the luncheon given by the Milwaukee County Association of Women Lawyers at the Athenaeum Wednesday, laughed, and Mrs. Ruppa read on:

"All lifelong callings of women inconsistent with these radical and sacred duties of their sex, as is the profession of law, are departures from the order of nature; and, when voluntary, treason against it."

There were mothers and even grandmothers among the women present Wednesday.

In more ways than one, they were refutations of many charges formerly made against women.

"Women can't ever really be friends with other women, as men can with men."

You've heard that one? Then you should have seen these women with each other, and heard what they had to say.

"I don't care what people say about women not sticking together," Judge Florence Allen of Ohio, who was appointed by President Roosevelt to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, the highest judicial office ever held by a woman, told the group, "I know that they do. Women have given me their affection, their confidence, and a feeling of solidarity with them that are among the highest compensations of holding public office. . . . I was proud, not for myself, when my appointment came, but because it happened to a woman."

Judge Genevieve R. Cline of New York, first woman to be appointed a judge on the Federal bench, said, "No honor in my life has meant as much to me as the pleasure of my friends in my success. I am going to use a very old-fashioned word that we don't hear much any more. It is spelled d-u-t-y. Every woman who achieves anything in her profession has the duty of so conducting herself and so doing her job that the way is made easier for the women who will come after her. She must hold open the door.

And Judge Georgia Bullock, only woman in the Superior Court of California, said, beginning lightly with "Ten years on the bench must have made me sentimental," ended very seriously with "I think I love more deeply now. I love my sisters in the law."

News from the Field

New Leaflet

"WOMEN AND WAGES," a new leaflet dealing with the question of minimum-wage laws for women and children, is now ready for sale and distribution. The sale price is 5 cents a copy and 50 cents for 25. Send orders to the Literature Chairman, National Woman's Party, Washington, D. C.

Government Workers' Council Meets

CLAUDE E. BABCOCK, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, was guest speaker at the business meeting of the Government Workers' Council held at Alva Belmont House, Thursday evening, November 15. Mr. Babcock's audience was especially interested in the brief summary which he gave of the returns from a questionnaire sent to all candidates for election to Congress on which one of the questions asked was, "Do you favor the repeal of Section 213?" Most of the members elected to Congress for the first time were found to be unfavorable to repeal. A large majority of the re-elected members answered in favor of repeal, having already learned that Section 213 is bad legislation. While tabulation of returns from the questionnaire is not yet complete, it is apparent that approximately half of the replies are affirmative, and that many more have not taken an unalterable stand against repeal. The Council therefore is optimistically planning an educational campaign with the specific object of winning the newly-elected members. Methods of procedure were discussed and Mr. Babcock outlined a suggested plan of action based on his experience in lobbying. Bessie I. Koehl, Chairman, presided.

DAY PRINTING COMPANY
PUBLICATIONS AND BOOKS
600 East Lombard Street
Baltimore, Md.